

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127923

65

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS: PRESS TREATMENT

1. FOLLOWING ARE FULL TEXTS OF JUNE TWO UPI AND AP WIRE
STORIES ON KIDNAPPING, DATELINED DAR ES SALAAM. STORIES
FOCUS ON STEINER ROLE.

2. UPI QTE AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR HAS OFFERED TO TRY HIS
HAND AT OPENING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. OFFICIALS AND
MARXIST GUERRILLAS HOLDING TWO AMERICAN STUDENTS AND A
DUTCH WOMAN IN NEIGHBORING ZAIRE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 127923

PETER STEINER, AN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY

OF MICHIGAN IN ANN ARBOR AND CURRENTLY VISITING PROFESSOR AT NAIROBI UNIVERSITY IN KENYA, SAID HE WOULD ACT IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY.

STEINER FLEW FROM KENYA TO BURUNDI, WHICH BORDERS BOTH TANZANIA AND ZAIRE, AND AMERICAN AND ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS WORKED OUT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS TRIP TO CONTACT THE GUERRILLAS.

STEINER VOLUNTEERED HIS SERVICES AFTER AMERICAN DIPLOMATS APPARENTLY FAILED TO FIND ANYONE CAPABLE OF CONTACTING THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN ZAIRE, FORMERLY THE BELGIAN CONGO.

THE GUERRILLAS, WHO SEEK THE OVERTHROW OF ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO, ABDUCTED THREE AMERICAN STUDENTS AND THE DUTCH WOMAN FROM A TANZANIAN WILDLIFE STATION MAY 19.

ONE STUDENT WAS LATER FREED TO RELAY THE GUERRILLAS' DEMANDS FOR ARMS, HALF A MILLION DOLLARS AND THE RELEASE FROM TANZANIAN JAILS OF A NUMBER OF THEIR COMRADES.

TANZANIA, WHICH REJECTED THE DEMANDS, SAID SUNDAY IT COULDN'T MEET ONE OF THE GUERRILLA'S KEY CONDITIONS EVEN IF IT WANTED TO.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TANZANIA WAS NOT HOLDING GABRIEL YUMBU, THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT'S SECRETARY GENERAL, AND ONE OF THOSE ORDERED FREED.

HE SAID YUMBU, A DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE LEFTIST CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT OF PATRICE LUMUMBA IN THE 1960S, HAD NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE HE WAS EXPELLED FROM TANZANIA IN 1973 FOR TRYING TO LAUNCH OPPOSITION TO MOBUTU SESE SEKO.

STEINER TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE SITUATION BECAUSE ONE OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED, BARBARA SMUTS, 24, OF ANN ARBOR, WAS A FRIEND OF HIS. SHE WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 127923

THOSE STILL HELD ARE CARRIE JANE HUNTER, 21, OF ATHERTON, CALIF., KENNETH SMITH, 22, OF GARDEN GROVE, CALIF., AND EMILIE BERGMAN, 25 OF THE NETHERLANDS.

STEINER SAID HE WOULD REPRESENT THE HOSTAGES' PARENTS AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY. THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES ATTEND STANFORD.

3. AP (AS PUBLISHED BY BALTIMORE SUN): QTE A UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSOR HAS VOLUNTEERED TO GO INTO THE JUNGLES OF REMOTE EASTERN ZAIRE TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MARXIST REBELS WHO TOOK THREE AMERICAN AND DUTCH STUDENTS HOSTAGE 13 DAYS AGO, DIPLOMATS SOURCES REPORTED YESTERDAY.

THE SOURCES SAID PETE STEINER FLEW RECENTLY TO BUJUMBURA, THE CAPITAL OF NEIGHBORING BURUNDI, TO PREPARE FOR THE MISSION. UNITED STATES DIPLOMATS ARE SEEKING APPROVAL

FOR THE PLAN FROM ZAIRE AUTHORITIES, THE SOURCES REPORTED.

BURUNDI HAS ISSUED A SPECIAL RE-ENTRY VISA TO MR. STEINER TO ENABLE HIM TO SHUTTLE BETWEEN ZAIRE AND BURUNDI, THEY SAID. MR. STEINER'S METHOD OF TRAVEL AND HIS EXACT DESTINATION IN ZAIRE, THE FORMER BELGIAN CONGO, WERE NOT DISCLOSED.

U.S. OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED HOPING FOR QUICK APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO OF ZAIRE, WHO IN THE PAST HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT PUBLICLY THAT THE GUERRILLAS EXIST.

GUERRILLA MEMBERS OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, CRITICAL OF MR. MOBUTU'S TIES WITH THE U.S., ARE HIDING OUT IN THE VAST JUNGLE IN EASTERN ZAIRE ALONG LAKE TANGANYIKA. THEY ARE HOLDING CARRIE JANE HUNTER, 21, OF ATHERTON, CALIF., KENNETH STEPHEN SMITH, 22, OF GARDEN GROVE, CALIF., BOTH STANFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND EMILIE VAN ZINNICK BERGMAN, 25, OF THE NETHERLANDS.

THE CAPTIVES WERE SEIZED IN A MIDNIGHT RAID ON A
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PAGE 04 STATE 127923

CHIMPANZEE STUDY CENTER ON THE TANZANIAN SIDE OF THE LAKE ABOUT 12 MILES SOUTH OF BURUNDI. A FOURTH HOSTAGE, BARBARA SMUTS, 24, OF ANN ARBOR, MICH., WAS RELEASED A WEEK AGO TO CONVEY THE ABDUCTORS' DEMAND FOR 500,000 THOUSAND DOLLARS RANSOM, HUNDREDS OF GUNS, AMMUNITION AND THE RELEASE OF GUERRILLA LEADERS DETAINED IN TANZANIA.

MISS SMUTS SAID SHE FEARED HER FRIENDS WOULD BE KILLED IF THE DEMANDS WERE NOT MET BY THE GUERRILLAS' MID-JULY DEAD LINE.

TANZANIA REJECTED THE DEMANDS AND DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CASE. AUTHORITIES IN DAR ES SALAAM SAID THEY ARE NOT HOLDING SOME OF THE MEN WHOSE FREEDOM THE GUERRILLAS SOUGHT. UNQTE. INGERSOLL

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